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Chief of Staff Baker Affirms Intention Not to Serve in a Second Reagan Term

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White House chief of staff James A. Baker III, telling a home-state newspaper what he long has been saying to his friends, has declared that he doesn't intend to stay in his job if President Reagan is reelected.

"I think the president would be better served by someone else in this job in a second term," Baker said in an interview with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Baker's comment reflected what other White House officials consider the open secret that he wants out of a job he once said he intended to hold for only two years. Last month Baker considered an exploratory proposal by a group of baseball owners that he become major league baseball commissioner, replacing Bowie Kuhn.

Yesterday, in the wake of the Star-Telegram story, Baker's friends and associates reiterated that he would be more than willing to stay with the administration for a second term, but not in his present post. He has complained about the long hours and the demanding nature of the job.

Both Baker and White House counselor Edwin Meese III are considered prospective replacements for Attorney General William French Smith, if he should step down in a second term. Baker is also known to be interested in becoming secretary of state, defense or treasury, or CIA director if William J. Casey should leave that post.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes, asked about the reports yesterday, observed that both Baker and deputy chief of staff Michael K. Deaver had talked repeatedly about leaving during the last 1 1/2 years and that neither had left.

"They both serve at the pleasure of the president, and I think Baker will be here as long as the president wishes him to be here," Speakes said.

Both Baker and Deaver have been targets of administration conservatives, whose opposition surfaced at a critical time last October, when William P. Clark replaced James G. Watt as secretary of the interior. Baker and Deaver had worked out a plan, which President Reagan reportedly had accepted, that would have moved Baker into Clark's old job of national security affairs adviser and made Deaver the chief of staff.

But Clark and Meese, joined by Casey and Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, opposed the proposal and persuaded Reagan to change his mind. Officials said that both Baker and Deaver were disappointed but agreed to stay on through the 1984 elections.

Since then, two high-ranking White House officials, both of them close to Baker, have left the administration. Kenneth M. Duberstein, assistant to the president for legislative relations, took a private lobbying job, and communications director David R. Gergen resigned to write and lecture at the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.